March 29, 2007

Daniel Burke, Esq.
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Dear Kevin Martin,

In the post-9/11 reality, the life or death work of our country's first responders has never been more important. Primary among their great responsibilities is ensuring that we have the ability to respond effectively and immediately to terrorist attacks and other disaster scenarios.

The availability of a free, national wireless data network will enhance our first responders' ability to act quickly and effectively in national and local emergency situations by disseminating essential information quickly to members in the field. The ability to use a redundant broadband network in those critical incidents to coordinate responses and remain interconnected is essential.

The Federal Communications Commission is currently reviewing a proposal supported by the Coalition for Free Broadband Now that will deliver fast, free and family-friendly broadband services across America. The plan would provide a redundant national wireless broadband data network to first responders for free. The portability of the proposed service would allow officers national mobility as they respond to critical incidents. This will be accomplished through the proposed services? coverage of 95% of the American population with broadband access within 10 years.

This network's utility to public safety is not limited to crisis scenarios. On a day-to-day basis, free access to an always-on, ubiquitous broadband data network will allow public safety officers across the country to do their jobs more effectively and efficiently by disseminating information and training materials quickly and easily, and by remaining connected at all times.

I urge the FCC to consider this plan now. The need for a robust, reliable and redundant national broadband network for our nation's first responders is immediate.

Sincerely,

Daniel Burke, Esq.

Cc: Michael Copps
Jonathan Adelstein
Deborah Taylor Tate
Robert McDowell
Representative Meehan
Senator Kennedy
Senator Kerry